

Fish Stocking Proposal

Region B

Megunticook River (181), Camden, Knox County

Proposal: Stock 100 FY RBT annually.

Location: Camden, Knox County (DeLorme, MAG map 14, D3, D4).

Characteristics: The Megunticook River is a 3.5-mile stretch of river that originates at the outlet of Megunticook Lake, flows through the town of Camden, and on into West Penobscot Bay, Atlantic Ocean. The river has various habitat features throughout its short length including reaches with boulders and high velocities, and dead water sections with deeper water and finer substrates and vegetation. One sampled tributary, Bailey Brook, flows directly into the main stem.

Existing/historical sport fisheries: The fish assemblage in the Megunticook River is comprised of brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, and fallfish. BKT create a put-and-take fishery in the river, with little summer survival expected. Rainbow trout create an attraction for mid-coast anglers, and several fish 16-20 inches have been reported (likely dropdowns from Megunticook Lake, where they are stocked annually).

The Megunticook River is open year round, has various access points, and is fished heavily by mid-coast anglers in search of a unique, riverine, salmonine fishery.

Competition and/or predation from other species: There are a plethora of fish species in the Megunticook River (e.g. BKT, BNT, SMB, FLF) that will compete with rainbow trout. However, the river is managed primarily as a put-and-take/put-grow-and-take (marginal) fishery and the growth and survival of most salmonines in the main stem is determined more by temperature rather than competition or predation.

Use of sport fishery: Anecdotal reports by anglers and observations by MDIFW fisheries biologists indicate that fishing pressure is high in the Megunticook River. The Megunticook River provides a unique opportunity for Maine anglers as current regulations allow for year-round fishing and harvest.

Regulations: Open to ice and open water fishing year-round. S-19, General Law terminal gear provisions and length limits apply year-round.

Access: The Megunticook River is accessible at various spots and a groomed trail system follows most of its 3.5 mile length.

Species present: FLF, BKT, BNT, RBT, SMB.

Stocking History: The Megunticook River is stocked annually with brook trout:

Stocking History: Megunticook River

Year	Species/Age Class	# of Stocked Fish
2011	SY BKT	400
	FY BKT	300
2012	SY BKT	400
	FY BKT	150
2013	SY BKT	900
2014	SY BKT	800

- Additionally, we have requested 200 FY BKT in 2014, and 400 SY/200 FY BKT in 2015.

History of private pond stocking of RBT within drainage: The stocking of RBT is not prohibited within the Megunticook drainage. Without a searchable private pond database it is difficult to ascertain whether private ponds have been stocked within the general area. Since Megunticook Lake is stocked with RBT, private pond stocking has little bearing on the presence/absence of the species; they are already stocked within the drainage.

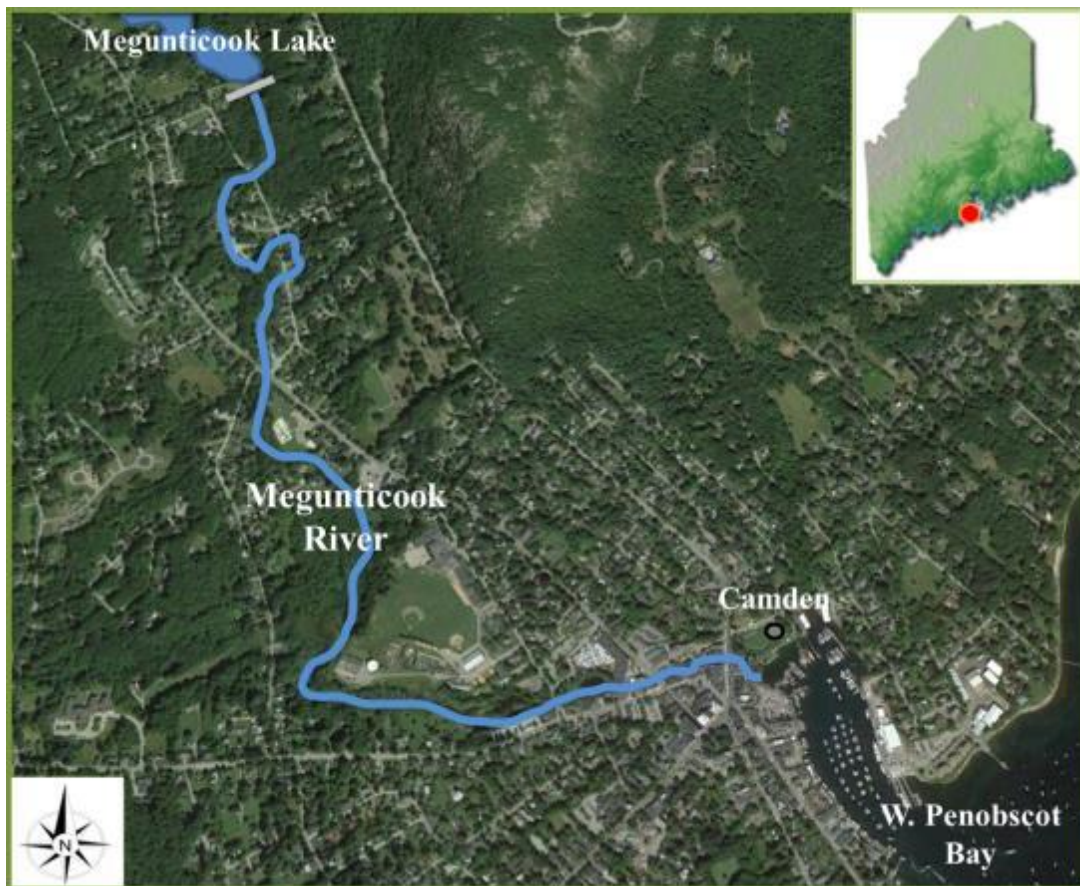
Possible effects and risks of introduction on fish populations/fisheries of proposed and adjoining waters: Rainbow trout are already present in the Megunticook River as a result of drop-downs stocked annually into Megunticook Lake. Therefore, we do not anticipate this new stocking program will have any additional impact on the current fish assemblage in the Megunticook River.

Presence of principal fisheries for wild, indigenous salmonids: No wild salmonines have been documented in the Megunticook River. YOY BNT have been documented in small tributary streams to the Megunticook; these are likely progeny of BNT stocked in Megunticook Lake. RBT could possibly use this same habitat, but it will not be sufficient to create a wild fishery.

Sea-run BKT are not present due to two impassable dams located at and just above head-of-tide.

Evaluation of proposed stocking: The overall success of the Megunticook River fall-yearling rainbow trout stocking program will be evaluated through communication with local anglers, discussions with the District Game Warden, and periodic spot checks by MDIFW fisheries biologist.

Site Map:



Site Photos:

1. Megunticook River downstream of first dam.



2. Megunticook River at Rt. 105 road crossing (at Megunticook Market).



3. Megunticook River along Mechanic Street (Camden).



4. Megunticook River in downtown Camden.

